Amendment and Response
GCS-001
U.S.S.N. 10/774,185
Page 3

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1   1.   (currently amended)   A method, comprising:

2   restricting access, by a locking element, to a restricted-access space defined within

3   an enclosure;

4   ~~detecting movements associated with a locking element based on a sequence of~~

5   ~~signal interruptions caused by the movements, the locking element restricting access to a~~

6   ~~restricted-access space defined within an enclosure~~

7   counting a number of trigger events during one or more successive time intervals,

8   each time interval having a predetermined duration, wherein the number of trigger events

9   counted during a given time interval can be greater than one; and

10   associating the number of trigger events counted in each time interval with one

11   digit of a digit sequence representing a code being submitted to actuate the locking

12   element and gain access to the restricted-access space; and

13   determining whether the code represented by the digit sequence actuates the

14   locking element ~~based on the sequence of signal interruptions, actuating the locking~~

15   ~~element~~ to gain access to the restricted-access space.

1   2.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   detecting the trigger events during each time interval based on a sequence of

3   signal interruptions caused by the trigger events;

Amendment and Response
GCS-001
U.S.S.N. 10/774,185
Page 4

4   representing at least part of the sequence of signal interruptions as a sequence of

5   digital logic levels;

6   comparing the sequence of digital logic levels with a previously-entered code to

7   ascertain an equivalence there between; and

8   based on ascertaining the equivalence, actuating the locking element to gain

9   access to the restricted-access space.

1   3.   (Original)   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   based on ascertaining the equivalence, identifying a user authorized to access the

3   restricted-access space.

1   4.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   generating an audible signal indicative of at least part of the <u>digit</u> sequence ~~of~~

3   ~~signal interruptions~~.

1   5.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   identifying an operating mode based at least partly on a portion of the <u>digit</u>

3   sequence ~~of signal interruptions~~, the operating mode corresponding to at least one of a

4   code change request and an access request.

1   6.   (Original)   The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2   generating an audible signal indicative of the identified operating mode.

1   7.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein ~~detected movements~~ <u>the trigger</u>

2   <u>events</u> correspond to manipulations of a door handle.

Amendment and Response
GCS-001
U.S.S.N. 10/774,185
Page 5

1   8.   (currently amended)   The method of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the sequence of signal

2   interruptions correspond to interruptions in an optical signal.

1   9.   (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the locking element corresponds to a

2   solenoid in a lock.

1   10.   (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the enclosure corresponds to at least one

2   of an automobile, a boat, an airplane, a building, a container, and a cabinet.

1   11.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

2   counting a number of trigger events ~~detecting movements~~ associated with a user

3   interface during one or more successive time intervals, each time interval having a

4   predetermined duration, wherein the number of trigger events counted during a given

5   time interval can be greater than one ~~based on a sequence of signal interruptions caused~~

6   ~~by the movements~~, the user interface affecting at least one operation of a vehicle;

7   associating the number of trigger events counted in each time interval with one

8   digit of a digit sequence representing a code being submitted to actuate the locking

9   element and gain access to the restricted-access space;

10   comparing ~~indicia of~~ at least a portion of the digit sequence ~~of signal interruptions~~

11   with a previously-stored code; and

12   based on the comparison, performing the at least one operation of the vehicle.

1   12.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   generating a human-perceptible signal indicative of the <u>digit</u> sequence ~~of signal~~

3   ~~interruptions~~.

1 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the user interface corresponds to

2   a door handle of the vehicle and the ~~detected movements~~ <u>trigger events</u> correspond to

3   manipulations of the door handle.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one operation of the vehicle

2   corresponds to at least one of a manipulation of a locking element restricting access to at

3   least part of the vehicle, a manipulation of a window of the vehicle, and an ignition of the

4   vehicle.

1 15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the sequence of <u>digits</u> ~~signal~~

2   ~~interruptions~~ correspond<u>s</u> to interruptions in an optical signal and the compared indicia

3   correspond to a sequence of digital logic levels.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one operation of the vehicle

2   corresponds to at least one of a manipulation of a locking element restricting access to at

3   least a part of the vehicle, a manipulation of a window of the vehicle, and an ignition of

4   the vehicle.

1 17. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

2   a locking element restricting access to a restricted-access space defined within an

3   enclosure;

Amendment and Response
GCS-001
U.S.S.N. 10/774,185
Page 7

4   a ~~movement~~ trigger-detection element detecting a number of trigger events

5   ~~movements associated with the locking element~~ during one or more successive time

6   intervals, each time interval having a predetermined duration, wherein the number of

7   trigger events detected during a given time interval can be greater than one ~~based on a~~

8   ~~sequence of signal interruptions caused by the movements~~; and

9   a control element receiving indicia associated with the ~~sequence of signal~~

10   ~~interruptions from~~ trigger events detected by the ~~movement~~ trigger-detection element,

11   associating the number of trigger events detected in each time interval with one digit of a

12   digit sequence representing a code, and actuating the locking element to provide access to

13   the restricted-access space in response to the code ~~thereto~~.

1   18.   (currently amended)   The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2   a feedback element generating a human-perceptible signal indicative of at least

3   part of the digit sequence ~~of signal interruptions from~~.

1   19.   (Original)   The system of claim 17, wherein the locking element corresponds to a

2   solenoid in a lock.

1   20.   (Original)   The system of claim 17, wherein the enclosure corresponds to at least one

2   of an automobile, a boat, an airplane, a building, a container, and a cabinet.

1   21.   (currently amended)   The system of claim 17, wherein the ~~movement~~ trigger-detection

2   element includes a signal emitter and a signal detector, the signal detector detecting ~~the~~ a

3   sequence of signal interruptions in an optical signal transmitted by the signal emitter.

Amendment and Response
GCS-001
U.S.S.N. 10/774,185
Page 8

1 22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the optical signal exhibits an infrared

2 wavelength.

1 23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the signal detector transmits the indicia

2 associated with the sequence of signal interruptions to the control element.

1 24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the indicia associated with the sequence

2 of signal interruptions corresponds to a sequence of digital logic levels.

1 25. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the control element compares the

2 ~~indicia associated with~~ the digit sequence ~~of signal interruptions~~ with a predetermined

3 code to determine whether to actuate the locking element.

1 26. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the control element identifies an

2 operating mode based at least partly on a portion of the digit sequence ~~of signal~~

3 ~~interruptions~~, the operating mode corresponding to at least one of a code change request

4 and an access request.